

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 COME-00 IO-12

OPIC-12 RSR-01 /165 W

----- 035992

R 250652 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2585

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1776

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EIND UG UK US

SUBJECT: SITUATION RE NATIONALIZATION OF BRITISH FIRMS
REMAINS CLOUDY

REFS: (A) KAMPALA 1756; (B) KAMPALA 1763

1. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICERS SPENT ALL DAY MAY 24 TRYING
TO TRACK DOWN SOMEONE WHO COULD EXPLAIN WHETHER GENERAL AMIN
REALLY

MEANT WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE DECREED TAKEOVER OF ALL REMAINING
BRITISH FIRMS AND ESTATES (REF A). THEY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THREE
BHC OFFICERS APPROACHED ME SEPARATELY DURING EVENING TO ASK PRE-
CISELY WHAT BANK GOVERNOR KIINGI HAD SAID EVENING BEFORE (REF B)
SINCE THIS WAS APPARENTLY THE ONLY SCRAP OF INFO AVAILABLE FROM
A GOU SOURCE. ACTING HICOMMER BRIND HAS APPOINTMENT WITH ACTING
FONMIN ETIANG MAY 25 AT WHICH TIME HE HOPES TO OBTAIN SOME
CLARIFICATION.

2. COMMERCIAL BANKS CLOSED MAY 24 AND REMAIN CLOSED TODAY.

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3. STORY MAKING ROUNDS WHICH ATTRIBUTES AMIN' S LATEST ANTI-BRITISH MOVE TO RETURN VISIT TO UGANDA BY ROY INNIS, DIRECTOR OF CORE, AT LEAST SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE. STORY GOES THAT INNIS ARRIVED ON AN EAA FLIGHT FROM NAIROBI, WHICH AS IS CUSTOMARY WAS LARGELY FILLED WITH BRITISH BUSINESSMEN WHO COMMUTE BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA TO LOOK AFTER INTERESTS HERE. INNIS LATER REPORTEDLY REMARKED TO AMIN SOMETHING LIKE THE FOLLOWING: " IF WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT HAVING PUT YOUR ECONOMY IN THE HANDS OF THE BLACK UGANDANS IS TRUE, WHAT ARE ALL THESE WHITE (CARPETBAGGERS) DOING COMING IN FROM KENYA?" AMIN' S EMBARRASSED REACTION THE NEXT DAY, ACCORDING TO THIS STORY, WAS TO ORDER TAKEOVER OF ALL REMAINING BRITISH PROPERTIES.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AMIN' S DECLARATION WAS IMPULSIVE AND SUDDEN, AS IS HIS WONT. THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE IF ANY ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITHIN GOU, NOR ANY PREPARATION SUCH AS A DECREE NAMING FIRMS AND ESTATES AFFECTED. WITHOUT ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM AMIN, WHO IS IN ADDIS, GOU IS PARALYZED AND UNABLE TO FOLLOW UP. ALL OF WHICH IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A ONE- MAN GOVERNMENT.
KEELEY

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NMAFVVZCZ

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